

Message Text

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ACTION ICAE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 SS-15 ARA-14
/052 W

-----109932 280033Z /64

R 271632Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0641
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13724

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PROP, PINT, PEPR, XX, CU, GW
SUBJECT: FRG COMMENT ON THE HAVANA FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH
AND STUDENTS

REF: BONN 8405, BONN 9440

1. ON THE EVE OF THE JULY 28-AUGUST 5 XI WORLD FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH AND STUDENTS IN HAVANA, POLITICAL DEBATE ON FRG ATTENDANCE HAS RESUMED. OPPOSITION CDU/CSU SPOKESMEN AND THEIR AFFILIATED YOUTH GROUPS ARE AGAIN CRITICIZING THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT FOR SUBSIDIZING DELEGATE TRAVEL TO HAVANA; SPD SPOKESMEN ARE REPEATING THEIR EARLIER ARGUMENTS ON THE VIRTUES OF ATTENDANCE - E.G., THE NEED NOT TO ABANDON THE FIELD TO THE COMMUNIST SIDE; THE FDP IS KEEPING ITS HEAD DOWN.

2. ON JULY 25, FRED ZANDER, THE PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY FOR YOUTH, FAMILY AND HEALTH
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AFFAIRS, ISSUED A STATEMENT (IN THE SPD PRESS SERVICE) SUMMARIZING THE ARGUMENTS FOR ATTENDANCE AT HAVANA. THE TEXT FOLLOWS (INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION):

"THE 11TH WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN JULY 28 AND AUGUST 5. PARTICIPANTS FROM THE FRG HAVE ALREADY LEFT FOR HAVANA. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS

TIME REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JUNGE UNION AND THE RING OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC STUDENTS ARE NOT AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC YOUTH GROUPS. AT THE LAST WORLD FESTIVAL IN EAST BERLIN IN 1973, THE YOUTH AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CDU USED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION OF THEIR VIEWS. THAT WAS A REASONABLE THING TO DO. WHOEVER IS CONVINCED OF THE VALIDITY OF HIS VIEW HAS NO NEED TO AVOID DISCUSSION, BUT (RATHER) SEEKS IT.

3. ALMOST ALL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH GROUPS IN OUR COUNTRY ARE ACTING ON THIS BASIS: FOR EXAMPLE, THE CATHOLIC STUDENTS, THE SOCIETY OF EVANGELICAL YOUTH, DGB YOUTH, DAG YOUTH, YOUTH OF THE GERMAN CIVIL SERVANTS ASSOCIATION, ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN FARM YOUTH, YOUNG SOCIALISTS, AND YOUNG DEMOCRATS. FRIENDLY WESTERN COUNTRIES SHARE THIS OPINION AND ARE SENDING YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES. THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WILL ALSO BE IN HAVANA.

4. IT IS CERTAINLY TO BE EXPECTED THAT THE ORTHODOX COMMUNIST STRATEGISTS WILL SEEK TO BIND YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TO THEIR IDEOLOGY THROUGH A POLICY OF ALLIANCES AND JOINT CAMPAIGNS. HOWEVER, YOU DON'T WIN CONTESTS WITH COMMUNISTS BY DUCKING THEM. IT IS WRONG TO ABANDON THIRD WORLD YOUTH TO ONE-SIDED

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INFLUENCE BY ORTHODOX COMMUNISTS.

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5. IT IS A DEMOCRATIC DUTY TO SUPPORT OUR DELEGATIONS FROM THE GERMAN FEDERAL YOUTH RING AND THE RING OF POLITICAL YOUTH FOR THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN CUBA, IN ORDER THAT THEIR TRIP WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE, AS IN THE PAST, DECIDED TO SUBSIDIZE THE TRAVEL COSTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR DEMOCRATIC YOUTH GROUPS. THE OPPOSITION CRITICIZES THIS STRONGLY. HOWEVER, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HOLDS FIRMLY TO ITS PLEDGE, AND I BELIEVE THAT THIS MONEY IS WELL INVESTED. I HAVE FAITH IN OUR FREE YOUTH GROUPS AND IN THE SUPERIORITY OF OUR DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

6. WHOEVER ARGUES AGAINST THIS POINT FOLLOWS A POLICY OF ISOLATION. THE GENERAL POLITICAL LINE OF THE OPPOSITION BECOMES CLEAR IN THIS CONTEXT: THE OPPOSITION WAS AGAINST OUR ENTRY IN THE UN, AGAINST OUR PARTICIPATION

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IN THE CSCE, AND NOW AGAINST PUBLICLY SUPPORTED PARTICIPATION OF OUR DEMOCRATIC YOUTH GROUPS AT THE WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH. I FEAR THAT THE CDU/CSU HAS STILL FAILED TO OVERCOME THE HALLSTEIN DOCTRINE. ITS NEW ISOLATION IN THE WESTERN WORLD SHOWS ITS INABILITY TO LEARN AND ITS STERILE DOGMATISM."

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